

W.W. Witmer House (Iowa Girls Highschool
Athletic Association)
2900 Grand Ave.
Des Moines
Polk County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-104

HABS,
IOWA,
77-DESMO
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

STATE IOWA	COUNTY POLK	TOWN OR VICINITY DES MOINES
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) W.W. WITMER HOUSE		HABS NO. IA-104
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Old Governor's Mansion		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 2900 Grand Ave.		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) Built in 1905	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Liebbe, Nourse and Rasmussen, architects	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The Witmer house is a fine example of the Georgian Revival style that became prominent in the first third of the twentieth century. The marked return of symmetry and formality as exhibited in the Georgian Revival style is quite evident in this house.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Georgian Revival		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Constructed of red brick with wooden trim.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular in shape, the Witmer house is two-and-a-half stories in height, with a six-bay front facade and a rectangular porch on the side. It is capped by a gable roof.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Typical of the high-style, the house contains a gable roof with pedimented dormers, Ionic pilasters that delineate the corners and a central pedimented pavilion that contains a fanlighted entrance and Palladian window, semicircular entrance porch, and broken pediments above the first floor windows.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Unknown		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Iowa Girls Highschool Athletic Association		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Shank, Wesley I., The Iowa Catalog: Historic American Buildings Survey, University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, 1979.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Kent D. Newell Historic American Buildings Survey		DATE 8/4/80